

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of
K. Inoue

Serial No.: 10/800580

Filed: March 15, 2004

For: WET PAPER WEB TRANSFER BELT

Confirmation No. 1657

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.132

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I, Kenji Inoue, having been warned that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and may jeopardize the validity of the above-captioned application and any patent issuing thereon, declare:

(1) I am a citizen of Japan, residing in Tsuchiura-shi, Ibaraki-ken, Japan.

(2) I received a degree in applied chemistry from Yamagata University in 1992.

(3) I have been employed by Ichikawa Co., Ltd. continuously since 1992, assigned to development laboratory after 10 months of working in personnel department.

(4) I am the sole inventor of the above-captioned U.S. patent application, and familiar with its subject matter, the prior art cited against it by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, and the grounds of rejection asserted in the Official action of May 8, 2008.

(5) As a result of my educational background and employment at Ichikawa Co., Ltd., I have become, and am currently, aware of the level of ordinary skill in the design and manufacture of wet paper web transfer belts as of the period from around March 15, 2002, the U.S. filing date of Hagfors U.S. patent publication No. 2002/0137416, to March 19, 2003, the filing date of the Japanese patent application on which my U.S. patent application claims priority.

(6) The second ground of rejection of the subject patent application is based on the assertion that Hagfors' example 2 describes fibers that differ in dtex, but are all hydrophilic. However, Hagfors' description in the specification is vague in my opinion. According to the description, in Hagfors' example 2, all the fibers are hydrophilic. On the other hand, the description in paragraphs 0012, 0013, Figure 2, and Claim 1 of the published patent application, lead to no other conclusion than that the "hydrophobic" areas of Hagfors' wet paper web transfer belt are due to the presence of "hydrophobic fibers."

(7) Therefore, in my opinion, a person having ordinary skill in the art of designing and manufacturing wet paper web transfer belts, having considered the disclosure of Hagfors in its entirety in the interval from around March 2002 to March 2003, would have concluded that Hagfors' example 2 is in error

and cannot reasonably be understood to mean what it appears to say, namely, that all the fibers are PA (hydrophilic) fibers. In my opinion, the absence of an explicit description of "hydrophobic fibers" in example 2 is nothing more than an example of the overall vagueness of Hagfors' description.

(8) All of the statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and all statements made herein on information and belief are believed to be true.

September 1, 2008
Date

Kenji Inoue
Kenji Inoue